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# Handbook of PHARMACEUTICAL EXCIPIENTS

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E POTTER CLARK

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## Polymethacrylates

### 1. Nonproprietary Names

USPNF: Ammonio methacrylate copolymer

USPNF: Methacrylic acid copolymer

Note that two separate monographs applicable to polymethacrylates are contained in the USPNF, see Section 9.

### 2. Synonyms

Eudragit; polymeric methacrylates.

### 3. Chemical Name and CAS Registry Number

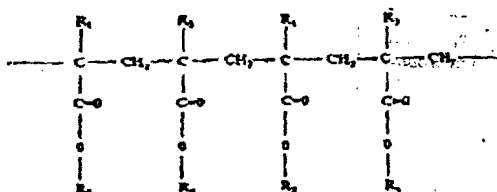
See Table I.

### 4. Empirical Formula Molecular Weight

The USPNF XVII describes methacrylic acid copolymer as a fully polymerized copolymer of methacrylic acid and an acrylic or methacrylic ester. Three types, type A (*Eudragit L*), type B (*Eudragit S*), and type C (*Eudragit L 30 D-55*), are defined which vary in their methacrylic acid content and solution viscosity. Two additional polymers, type A (*Eudragit RL*) and type B (*Eudragit RS*), also referred to as ammonio methacrylate copolymers, consisting of fully polymerized copolymers of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid esters with a low content of quaternary ammonium groups, are also described in the USPNF XVII. See Section 9.

Typically, the molecular weight of the polymer is  $\geq 100,000$ .

### 5. Structural Formula



For *Eudragit E*:

$R_1, R_3 = CH_3$

$R_2 = CH_2CH_2N(CH_3)_3$

$R_4 = CH_3, C_4H_9$

For *Eudragit L* and *S*:

$R_1, R_3 = CH_3$

$R_2 = H$

$R_4 = CH_3$

For *Eudragit RL* and *RS*:

$R_1 = H, CH_3$

$R_2 = CH_3, C_4H_9$

$R_3 = CH_3$

$R_4 = CH_2CH_2N(CH_3)_3^+ Cl^-$

For *Eudragit NE 30 D*:

$R_1, R_3 = H, CH_3$

$R_2, R_4 = CH_3, C_2H_5$

For *Eudragit L 30 D-55* and *L 100-55*:

$R_1, R_3 = H, CH_3$

$R_2 = H$

$R_4 = CH_3, C_4H_9$

### 6. Functional Category

Film-former; tablet binder; tablet diluent.

### 7. Applications in Pharmaceutical Formulation or Technology

Polymethacrylates are primarily used in oral capsule and tablet formulations as film coating agents.<sup>(1-10)</sup> Depending on the type of polymer used, films of different solubility characteristics can be produced, see Table III.

*Eudragit E* is used as a plain or insulating film former; it is soluble in gastric fluid below pH 5. In contrast, *Eudragit L* and *S* types are used as enteric coating agents since they are resistant to gastric fluid. Different types are available which are soluble at different pH values, e.g. *Eudragit L 100* is soluble at  $> pH 6$ , *Eudragit S 100* is soluble at  $> pH 7$ .

*Eudragit RL, RS* and *NE 30 D* are used to form water-insoluble film coats for sustained release products. *Eudragit RL* films are more permeable than those of *Eudragit RS*, and by mixing the two types together films of varying permeability can be obtained. *Eudragit L 100-55* is a redispersible powder and is an alternative to *Eudragit L 30 D-55* for aqueous enteric coating.

Polymethacrylates are also used as binders in both aqueous and organic wet-granulation processes. Larger quantities (5-20%) of dry polymer are used to control the release of an active substance from a tablet matrix. Solid polymers may be used in direct compression processes in quantities of 10-50%. Polymethacrylate polymers may additionally be used to form the matrix layers of transdermal delivery systems and have also been used to prepare novel gel formulations for rectal administration.<sup>(11)</sup>

See also Section 19.

### 8. Description

Polymethacrylates are synthetic cationic and anionic polymers of dimethylaminoethylmethacrylates, methacrylic acid and methacrylic acid esters in varying ratios. Several different types are commercially available and may be obtained as the dry powder, an aqueous dispersion, or as an organic solution A (60:40) mixture of acetone and propan-2-ol is most commonly used as the organic solvent. See Tables I and II. *Eudragit E* is cationic polymer based on dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate and other neutral methacrylic acid esters. It is soluble in gastric fluid as well as in weakly acidic buffer solutions (up to approximately pH 5). *Eudragit E* is available as a 12.5% ready-to-use solution in propan-2-ol/acetone (60:40). It is light yellow in color with the characteristic odor of the solvents. Solvent-free granules contain  $\geq 98\%$  dry weight content of *Eudragit E*.

*Eudragit L* and *S*, also referred to as methacrylic acid copolymers in the USPNF monograph, are anionic copolymerization products of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate. The ratio of free carboxyl groups to the ester is approximately 1:1 in *Eudragit L* and approximately 1:2 in *Eudragit S*. Both polymers are readily soluble in neutral weakly alkaline conditions (pH 6-7) and form salts with alkalis, thus affording film coats which are resistant to gastric media but soluble in intestinal fluid. They are available as 12.5% solution in propan-2-ol without plasticizer (*Eudragit L 12.5* and *S 12.5*), and as a 12.5% ready-to-use solution in propan-2-ol with 1.25% dibutyl phthalate as plasticizer (*Eudragit L 12.5 P* and *S 12.5 P*). Solutions are colorless with the characteristic odor of the solvent. *Eudragit L-100* is

Table 1: Chemical name and CAS registry number of polymethacrylates.

| Chemical name  | Trade name   | CAS number   |
|--|--|--------------|
| Poly(butyl methacrylate, (2-dimethyl aminoethyl) methacrylate, methyl methacrylate) 1:2:1      | <i>Eudragit E 100</i><br><i>Eudragit E 12.5</i><br><i>Eudragit NE 30 D</i><br>(formerly <i>Eudragit 30 D</i> )                       | [24938-16-7] |
| Poly(ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate) 2:1  | <i>Eudragit L 100</i><br><i>Eudragit L 12.5</i><br><i>Eudragit L 12.5 P</i><br><i>Eudragit L 30 D-55</i><br><i>Eudragit L 100-55</i> | [9010-88-2]  |
| Poly(methacrylic acid, methyl methacrylate) 1:1  | <i>Eudragit S 100</i><br><i>Eudragit S 12.5</i><br><i>Eudragit S 12.5 P</i>  | [25806-15-1] |
| Poly(methacrylic acid, ethyl acrylate) 1:1   | <i>Eudragit RL 100</i><br><i>Eudragit RL PO</i><br><i>Eudragit RL 30 D</i><br><i>Eudragit RL 12.5</i>                                | [25212-88-8] |
| Poly(methacrylic acid, methyl methacrylate) 1:2  | <i>Eudragit RS 100</i><br><i>Eudragit RS 12.5</i><br><i>Eudragit RS 12.5 P</i>   | [25086-15-1] |
| Poly(ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, trimethylammonioethyl methacrylate chloride) 1:2:0.2 | <i>Eudragit RL 100</i><br><i>Eudragit RL PO</i><br><i>Eudragit RL 30 D</i><br><i>Eudragit RL 12.5</i>                                | [33434-24-1] |
| Poly(ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, trimethylammonioethyl methacrylate chloride) 1:2:0.1 | <i>Eudragit RS 100</i><br><i>Eudragit RS PO</i><br><i>Eudragit RS 30 D</i><br><i>Eudragit RS 12.5</i>                                | [33434-24-1] |

*Eudragit S-100* are white free flowing powders with at least 95% of dry polymers.

*Eudragit RL* and *Eudragit RS*, also referred to as ammonio-methacrylate copolymers in the USP NF monograph, are copolymers synthesized from acrylic acid and methacrylic acid esters with *Eudragit RL* (type A) having 10% of functional quaternary ammonium groups and *Eudragit RS* (type B) having 5% of functional quaternary ammonium groups. The ammonium groups are present as salts and give rise to pH-independent permeability of the polymers. Both polymers are water-insoluble, and films prepared from *Eudragit RL* are freely permeable to water, whereas, films prepared from *Eudragit RS* are only slightly permeable to water. They are available as 12.5% ready-to-use solutions in propen-2-ol/acetone (60:40). Solutions are colorless or slightly yellow in color, and may be clear or slightly turbid; they have an odor characteristic of the solvents. Solvent-free granules (*Eudragit RL 100* and *Eudragit RS 100*) contain  $\geq 97\%$  of the dried weight content of the polymer.

*Eudragit RL PO* and *Eudragit RS PO* are fine, white powders with a slight amine-like odor. They are characteristically the same polymers as *Eudragit RL* and *RS*. They contain  $\geq 97\%$  of dry polymer.

*Eudragit RL 30 D* and *Eudragit RS 30 D* are aqueous dispersions of copolymers of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid esters with a low content of quaternary ammonium groups. The dispersions contain 30% polymer. The quaternary groups occur as salts and are responsible for the permeability of films made from these polymers. Films prepared from *Eudragit RL 30 D* are readily permeable to water and to dissolved active substances, whereas films prepared from *Eudragit RS 30 D* are less permeable to water. Film coatings prepared from both polymers give pH-independent release of active substance. Plasticizers are usually added to improve film properties.

*Eudragit NE 30 D* is an aqueous dispersion of a neutral copolymer consisting of polymethacrylic acid esters. The dispersions are milky-white liquids of low viscosity and have a weak aromatic odor. Films prepared from the lacquer swell in water, to which they become permeable. Thus, films produced are insoluble in water, but give pH-independent drug release.

*Eudragit L 30 D-55* is an aqueous dispersion of an anionic copolymer based on methacrylic acid and acrylic acid ethyl ester. The polymer corresponds to USP NF methacrylic acid copolymer, type C. The ratio of free carboxyl groups to ester groups is 1:1. Films dissolve above pH 5.5 forming salts with alkalis, thus affording coatings which are insoluble in gastric media, but soluble in the small intestine.

*Eudragit L 100-55* (prepared by spray-drying *Eudragit L 30 D-55*) is a white, free-flowing powder which is redispersible in water to form a latex which has properties similar to *Eudragit L 30 D-55*.

## 9. Pharmacopoeial Specifications

Specifications for methacrylic acid copolymers (*Eudragit L, S* and *L 30 D-55*).

| Test  | USP NF XVII (Suppl 6) |
|---|-----------------------|
| Identification                                | +                     |
| Viscosity                                     |                       |
| Type A  | 50-200 mPa s          |
| Type B  | 50-200 mPa s          |
| Type C  | 100-200 mPa s         |
| Loss on drying                                |                       |
| Type A  | $\leq 5.0\%$          |
| Type B  | $\leq 5.0\%$          |
| Type C  | $\leq 3.0\%$          |
| Residue on ignition                           |                       |
| Type A  | $\leq 0.1\%$          |
| Type B  | $\leq 0.1\%$          |
| Type C  | $\leq 0.4\%$          |
| Arsenic                                       | $\leq 2$ ppm          |
| Heavy metals                                  | $\leq 0.002\%$        |
| Monomers                                      | $\leq 0.3\%$          |
| Assay of methacrylic acid units (dried basis) |                       |
| Type A  | 46.0-50.6%            |
| Type B  | 27.6-30.7%            |
| Type C  | 46.0-50.6%            |

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Specifications for ammonio methacrylate copolymers (Eudragit RL and RS).

| Test  | USP NF XVII (Suppl 4) |
|---|-----------------------|
| Identification                                    | +                     |
| Viscosity   |                       |
| Types A and B                                     | $\leq 15$ mPa s       |
| Loss on drying                                    |                       |
| Types A and B                                     | $\leq 3.0\%$          |
| Residue on ignition                               |                       |
| Types A and B                                     | $\leq 0.1\%$          |
| Arsenic   | $\leq 2$ ppm          |
| Heavy metals                                      | $\leq 0.002\%$        |
| Monomers  | $\leq 0.3\%$          |
| Assay of ammonio methacrylate units (dried basis) |                       |
| Type A  | 8.85-11.96%           |
| Type B  | 4.48-6.77%            |

## Alkali value:

162-198 for Eudragit E 12.5 and E 100;  
23.9-32.3 for Eudragit RL 12.5, RL 100, and RL PO;  
27.5-31.7 for Eudragit RL 30 D;  
12.1-18.3 for Eudragit RS 12.5, RS 100, and RS PO;  
16.5-22.3 for Eudragit RS 30 D.

## Density:

0.81-0.82 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for Eudragit E;  
0.83-0.85 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for Eudragit L, S 12.5 and 12.5 P;  
0.83-0.85 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for Eudragit L, S 100;  
1.06-1.07 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for Eudragit L 30 D-55;  
0.82-0.84 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for Eudragit L 100-55;  
0.815-0.835 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for Eudragit RL and RS 12.5;  
0.815-0.835 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for Eudragit RL and RS PO;  
1.045-1.055 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for Eudragit RL and RS 30 D.

## Refractive index:

$n_D^{20} = 1.38-1.385$  for Eudragit E;  
 $n_D^{20} = 1.39-1.395$  for Eudragit L and S;  
 $n_D^{20} = 1.387-1.392$  for Eudragit L 100-55;  
 $n_D^{20} = 1.38-1.385$  for Eudragit RL and RS.

## Solubility: see Table II.

## Viscosity (dynamic):

3-12 mPa s for Eudragit E;  
50-200 mPa s for Eudragit L and S;  
 $\leq 50$  mPa s for Eudragit L 30 D-55;  
100-200 mPa s for Eudragit L 100-55;  
 $\leq 15$  mPa s for Eudragit RL and RS;  
 $\geq 200$  mPa s for Eudragit RL and RS D.

## 10. Typical Properties

Acid value: 315 for Eudragit L 12.5, L 12.5 P, L 100, L 30 D-55, and L 100-55; 180-200 for Eudragit S 12.5, S 12.5 P, and S 100.

Table II: Solubility of commercially available polymethacrylates (Eudragit, Röhm Pharma GmbH) in various solutions.

| Type                              | Acetone and alcohols <sup>(a)</sup> | Dichloromethane | Solvent Ethyl acetate | 1N HCl | 1N NaOH          | Petroleum ether | Water |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------|------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Eudragit E 12.5                   | M                                   | M               | M                     | M      | —                | M               | (1)   |
| Eudragit E 100                    | S                                   | S               | S                     | —      | —                | P               | P     |
| Eudragit L 12.5 P                 | M                                   | M               | M                     | —      | M                | P               | P     |
| Eudragit L 12.5                   | M                                   | M               | M                     | —      | M                | P               | P     |
| Eudragit L 100-55                 | S                                   | I               | I                     | —      | S                | I               | (1)   |
| Eudragit L 100                    | S                                   | I               | I                     | —      | S                | I               | (1)   |
| Eudragit L 30 D-55 <sup>(b)</sup> | M <sup>(c)</sup>                    | —               | —                     | —      | M <sup>(c)</sup> | —               | M     |
| Eudragit S 12.5 P                 | M                                   | M               | M                     | —      | M                | P               | P     |
| Eudragit S 12.5                   | M                                   | M               | M                     | —      | M                | P               | P     |
| Eudragit S 100                    | S                                   | I               | I                     | —      | S                | I               | (1)   |
| Eudragit RL 12.5                  | M                                   | M               | M                     | —      | —                | P               | M     |
| Eudragit RL 100                   | S                                   | S               | S                     | —      | —                | I               | I     |
| Eudragit RL PO                    | S                                   | S               | S                     | —      | I                | I               | I     |
| Eudragit RL 30 D                  | M <sup>(c)</sup>                    | M               | M                     | —      | I                | I               | M     |
| Eudragit RS 12.5                  | M                                   | M               | M                     | —      | —                | P               | M     |
| Eudragit RS 100                   | S                                   | S               | S                     | —      | —                | I               | I     |
| Eudragit RS PO                    | S                                   | S               | S                     | —      | I                | I               | I     |
| Eudragit RS 30 D                  | M <sup>(c)</sup>                    | M               | M                     | —      | I                | I               | M     |

Where: S = soluble;

M = miscible;

I = insoluble or immiscible;

P = precipitates.

Note: a. Alcohols including ethanol, methanol and propan-2-ol.

b. Supplied as a milky-white colored aqueous dispersion.

c. A 1:5 mixture forms a clear, viscous solution.

d. A 1:2 mixture forms a clear or slightly opalescent, viscous liquid.

e. A 1 part of both Eudragit RL 30 D and Eudragit RS 30 D dissolve completely in 5 parts acetone, ethanol or propan-2-ol to form a clear or slightly turbid solution. However, when mixed in a ratio of 1:5 with methanol, Eudragit RL 30 D dissolves completely, whereas Eudragit RS 30 D only partially.

## Polymethacrylates

## 11. Stability and Storage Conditions

Dry powder polymer forms are stable at temperatures less than 30°C. Above this temperature, powders tend to form clumps although this does not affect the quality of the substance and the clumps can be readily broken up. Dry powders are stable for at least two years if stored in a tightly closed container at less than 30°C.

Dispersions are sensitive to extreme temperatures and phase separation occurs below 0°C. Dispersions should therefore be stored at temperatures between 5-25°C and are stable for at least one year after shipping from the manufacturer's warehouse if stored in a tightly closed container at the above conditions.

## 12. Incompatibilities

Incompatibilities occur with certain polymethacrylate dispersions depending upon the ionic and physical properties of the polymer and solvent. For example, coagulation may be caused by soluble electrolytes, pH changes, some organic solvents and extremes of temperature, see Table II. Dispersions of *Eudragit*

*L 30 D*, *RL 30 D*, *L 100-55* and *RS 30 D* are also incompatible with magnesium stearate.

Interactions between polymethacrylates and some drugs occur although solid polymethacrylates and organic solutions are generally more compatible than aqueous dispersions.

## 13. Method of Manufacture

Prepared by the polymerization of acrylic and methacrylic acids or their esters, e.g. butyl ester or dimethylamino ester.

## 14. Safety

Polymethacrylate copolymers are widely used as film coating materials in oral pharmaceutical formulations. They are also used to a lesser extent in topical formulations and are generally regarded as nontoxic and nonirritant materials.

A daily intake of 2 mg/kg body-weight of *Eudragit* (equivalent to approximately 150 mg for an average adult) may be regarded as essentially safe in humans.

See also Section 15.

Table III: Summary of properties and uses of commercially available polymethacrylates (*Eudragit*, Röhm-Pharma GmbH).

| Type                      | Supply form        | Polymer dry weight content | Recommended solvents or diluents | Solubility                              | Applications                     |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <i>Eudragit E 12.5</i>    | Organic solution   | 12.5%                      | Acetone, alcohols                | Soluble in gastric fluid to pH 5        | Film coating                     |
| <i>Eudragit E 100</i>     | Granules           | 98%                        | Acetone, alcohols                | Soluble in gastric fluid to pH 5        | Film coating                     |
| <i>Eudragit L 12.5 P</i>  | Organic solution   | 12.5%                      | Acetone, alcohols                | Soluble in intestinal fluid from pH 6   | Enteric coatings                 |
| <i>Eudragit L 12.5</i>    | Organic solution   | 12.5%                      | Acetone, alcohols                | Soluble in intestinal fluid from pH 6   | Enteric coatings                 |
| <i>Eudragit L 100</i>     | Powder             | 95%                        | Acetone, alcohols                | Soluble in intestinal fluid from pH 6   | Enteric coatings                 |
| <i>Eudragit L 100-55</i>  | Powder             | 95%                        | Acetone, alcohols                | Soluble in intestinal fluid from pH 5.5 | Enteric coatings                 |
| <i>Eudragit L 30 D-55</i> | Aqueous dispersion | 30%                        | Water                            | Soluble in intestinal fluid from pH 5.5 | Enteric coatings                 |
| <i>Eudragit S 12.5 P</i>  | Organic solution   | 12.5%                      | Acetone, alcohols                | Soluble in intestinal fluid from pH 7   | Enteric coatings                 |
| <i>Eudragit S 12.5</i>    | Organic solution   | 12.5%                      | Acetone, alcohols                | Soluble in intestinal fluid from pH 7   | Enteric coatings                 |
| <i>Eudragit S 100</i>     | Powder             | 95%                        | Acetone, alcohols                | Soluble in intestinal fluid from pH 7   | Enteric coatings                 |
| <i>Eudragit RL 12.5</i>   | Organic solution   | 12.5%                      | Acetone, alcohols                | High permeability                       | Sustained release                |
| <i>Eudragit RL 100</i>    | Granules           | 97%                        | Acetone, alcohols                | High permeability                       | Sustained release                |
| <i>Eudragit RL 30 D</i>   | Powder             | 97%                        | Acetone, alcohols                | High permeability                       | Sustained release                |
| <i>Eudragit RS 12.5</i>   | Aqueous dispersion | 30%                        | Water                            | High permeability                       | Sustained release                |
| <i>Eudragit RS 100</i>    | Organic solution   | 12.5%                      | Acetone, alcohols                | Low permeability                        | Sustained release                |
| <i>Eudragit RS 30 D</i>   | Granules           | 97%                        | Acetone, alcohols                | Low permeability                        | Sustained release                |
| <i>Eudragit RS 100</i>    | Powder             | 97%                        | Acetone, alcohols                | Low permeability                        | Sustained release                |
| <i>Eudragit RS 30 D</i>   | Aqueous dispersion | 30%                        | Water                            | Low permeability                        | Sustained release                |
| <i>Eudragit NE 30 D</i>   | Aqueous dispersion | 30% or 40%                 | Water                            | Swellable, permeable                    | Sustained release, tablet matrix |

Note: Recommended plasticizers for the above types of *Eudragit* polymers include dibutyl phthalate, polyethylene glycol and triethyl citrate. Approximately 20% plasticizer is required for *Eudragit RL 30 D* and *Eudragit RS 30 D*. A plasticizer is not necessary with *Eudragit E 12.5*, *Eudragit E 100* and *Eudragit NE 30 D*.

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## 15. Handling Precautions

Observe normal precautions appropriate to the circumstances and quantity of material handled. Additional measures should be taken when handling organic solutions of polymethacrylates. Eye protection, gloves and a dust mask or respirator are recommended. Polymethacrylates should be handled in a well-ventilated environment and measures taken to prevent dust formation.

Acute and chronic adverse effects have been observed in workers handling the related substances methyl methacrylate and poly(methyl methacrylate) (PMMA).<sup>(12,13)</sup> In the UK, the occupational exposure limit for methyl methacrylate has been set at 410 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (100 ppm) long-term (8-hour TWA), and 510 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (125 ppm) short-term.<sup>(14)</sup> See also Section 18.

## 16. Regulatory Status

Included in the FDA Inactive Ingredients Guide (oral capsules and tablets). Included in bioparenteral medicines licensed in the UK.

## 17. Pharmacopeias

Fr and USPNF.

## 18. Related Substances

Methyl methacrylate; poly(methyl methacrylate).

Methyl methacrylate: C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

Molecular weight: 100.13

CAS number: [80-62-6]

Synonyms: methacrylic acid, methyl ester; methyl 2-methacrylate; methyl 2-methylpropenoate; MME.

Comments: methyl methacrylate forms the basis of acrylic bone cements used in orthopaedic surgery.

Poly(methyl methacrylate): (C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>

Synonyms: methyl methacrylate polymer; PMMA.

Comments: poly(methyl methacrylate) has been used as a material for intra-ocular lenses, for denture bases and as a cement for dental prostheses.

## 19. Comments

A number of different polymethacrylates are commercially available which have different applications and properties, see Table III.

For spray-coating, polymer solutions and dispersions should be diluted with suitable solvents. Some products need the addition of a plasticizer such as: dibutyl sebacate; dibutyl phthalate; glyceryl triacetate and polyethylene glycol. Different

types of plasticizer may be mixed to optimize the polymer properties for special requirements.

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